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A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE ARGENTINE DAIRY INDUSTRY

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To write anything like a comprehensive review of the dairy industry of the Argentine Republic and give accurate data on production is an impossibility because accurate statistics are not available. There is no legal inspection or supervision of creameries and cheese factories and no method of requiring reports of products manufactured. There is, however, an accurate record of all products exported, but figures on local consumption and total production are only rough estimates.

The most reliable statistics of production that we have are furnished by the Office of Rural Economy and Statistics of the Department of Agriculture of Argentina. The following tables 1, 2, and 3, were published in the January and February numbers of "La Industria Lechera" (The Dairy Industry), the official organ of the "Centro Nacional de la Industria Lechera." This organization is in reality the National Dairy Association of Argentina. It stands for all that is progressive and up-to-date in the dairy industry and is making every possible effort to advance the industry.

TABLE 1.- Production of Dairy Products in Argentina in 1919.

	Butter	Cheese	Casein
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Federal District-----	30,595,853	182,559	384,617
Provinces-----			
Buenos Aires-----	13,892,507	34,973,470	8,643,478
Santa Fe-----	11,251,937	7,853,590	3,580,539
Cordoba-----	255,859	3,856,275	1,463,370
Entre Rios-----	403,548	881,452	41,098
	56,399,704	47,747,346	14,113,102
Other Provinces and Territories-----	433,499	2,146,182	37,864
GRAND TOTAL-----	56,833,203	49,893,528	14,150,966

Tables 1 and 2 indicate that the production of dairy products in Argentina is very unevenly distributed. But it is only natural that the production and manufacture of these products should be concentrated in the particular section further indicated by the shaded portions of the accompanying map for here are found three



principal factors that make the industry, (a) more than 66 per cent of the cattle, (b) nearly three-fourths of the consuming public (72 per cent), and (c) the commercial center and ports of exportation. The influence of the first two factors has been known since the beginning of the dairy industry. The importance of the third has not shown itself until the value of the products was known to the outside world and an export trade was developed.

TABLE 2.- Distribution of Establishments Manufacturing Dairy Products in Argentina.

Provinces and Territories	Factories	Factories	Cream	Butter	Cheese	Mixed
	Idle	Operating	Stations	Factories	Factories	
Federal District---	---	13	---	13	---	---
Buenos Aires-----	322	1,705	974	81	345	305
Santa Fe-----	35	714	432	22	103	157
Cordoba-----	12	352	114	2	108	128
Entre Rios-----	41	356	38	1	154	153
Catamarca-----	---	62	---	---	52	10
Corrientes-----	---	89	---	---	74	15
La Rioja-----	---	43	---	---	18	25
Mendoza-----	7	17	---	---	12	5
Salta-----	15	45	---	---	34	11
Santiago del Estero	---	32	1	---	21	10
San Juan-----	---	15	---	---	9	6
San Luis-----	15	113	---	---	68	45
Tucuman-----	12	68	1	---	59	8
Jujuy-----	---	25	1	---	21	3
Pampa-----	4	123	69	---	12	42
Chaco-----	---	9	---	---	5	4
Chubut-----	---	33	2	---	1	30
Formosa-----	---	16	---	---	11	---
Misionea-----	---	3	---	---	2	---
Neuquen-----	---	22	---	---	14	---
Rio Negro-----	---	31	---	---	12	1
TOTAL-----	463	3,886	1,632	119	1,135	1,000

The region referred to contains all the butter factories; 1,558 out of 1,632, or 95 per cent of the cream stations; 710 out of 1,135, or 63 per cent of the cheese factories; and 743 out of 1,000, or 74 per cent of the combined factories.

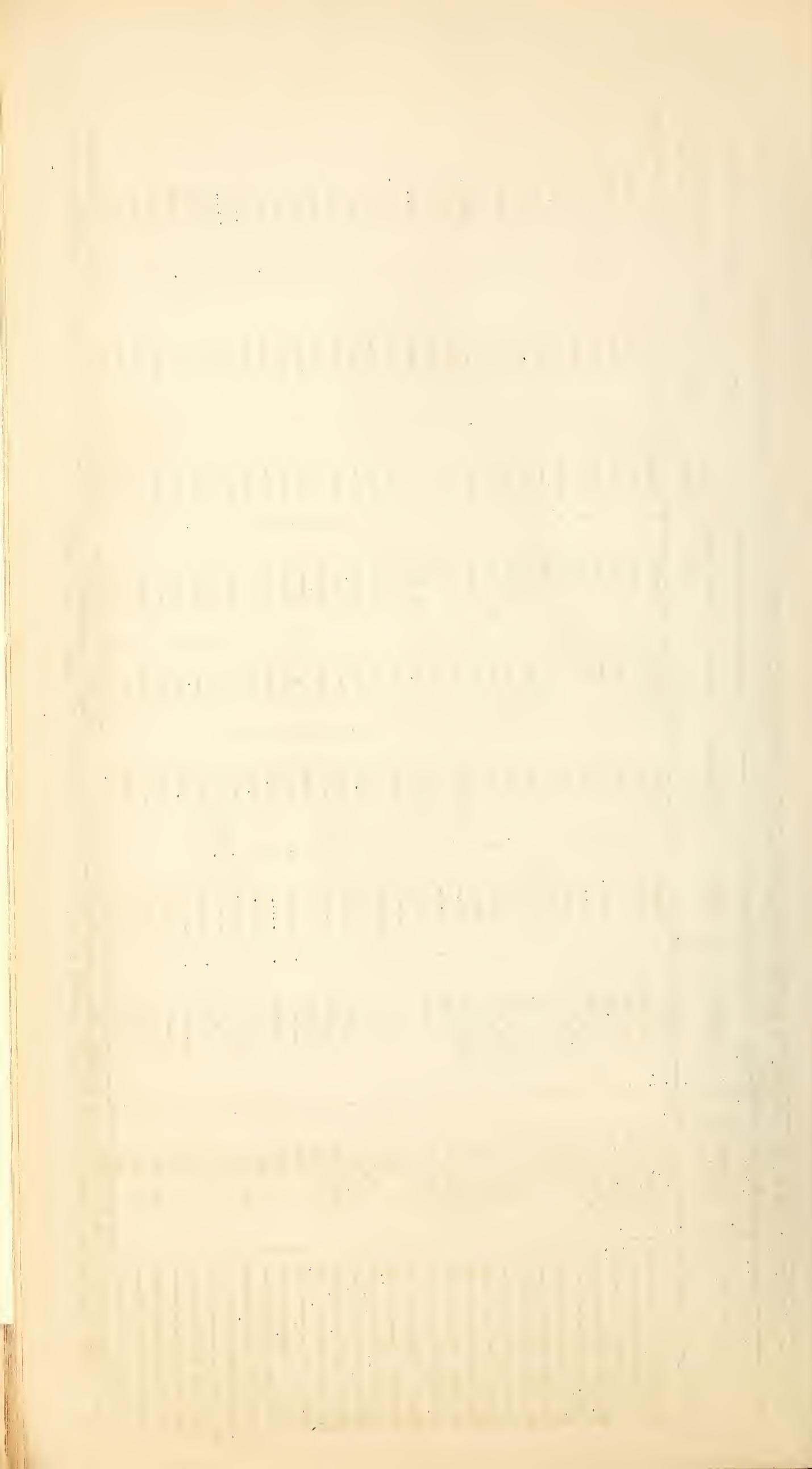
A comparison of the production shows even more plainly than does the number of factories the highly centralized character of the industry. According to the figures this area manufactures 99 per cent of the butter, 96 per cent of the cheese, and practically all of the casein. The great majority of the factories in the outlying districts are comparatively small.



TABLE 3.- Exportation of Dairy Products in 1920 Classified by Countries of Destination. (Compiled from export permits granted by the customs.)

Destination	Butter	Cheese	Cream	Condensed Milk	Dried Milk	Sterilized Milk	Milk Powder	Sweet Preserve of Milk	Chocolate and Milk Preserve.
England-----	25,543,199	40,812	2,535	7,992	595	-----	-----	-----	-----
France-----	2,371,356	193,917	---	---	---	-----	-----	-----	-----
Italy-----	2,954,054	5,545	---	---	---	-----	-----	-----	-----
United States-----	5,297,614	12,103,523	51	35	247	-----	-----	-----	-----
Paraguay-----	80,860	305,943	---	8,818	53	-----	-----	-----	-----
Brazil-----	79,031	503,919	6,504	28,660	265	-----	5,864	-----	-----
Uruguay-----	43,792	97,108	447,267	1,521	159	6,614	5,864	-----	-----
Chile-----	478,198	260,365	---	---	7,255	-----	1,235	-----	-----
Peru-----	432,831	102,412	---	1,102	102,146	661	-----	254	-----
Spain-----	127,726	49,747	50,706	---	13	-----	2,307	-----	-----
Belgium-----	1,240,270	135,142	9,982	36,508	12,081	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bolivia-----	128,339	523,293	77,518	---	---	-----	-----	-----	-----
Holland-----	216	1,543	556	---	---	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sweden-----	976,737	3,071	3,071	---	---	-----	-----	-----	-----
Greece-----	525,799	1,133	1,133	---	---	-----	-----	-----	-----
Norway-----	37,796	996	441	789	10,758	135,415	2,540	198	904
Switzerland-----	441	441	2,734	22,906	3,254	7,374	-----	-----	-----
Mamaica-----	14,480	110	110	110	110	507	5,966	608	5,223
Turkey-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Japan-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Falkland Islands-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Ecuador-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Germany-----	54,070	54,070	2,734	1,512	3,340	5,181	53,981	131,324	15,533
Egypt-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Straits Settlements-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
India-----	926	926	926	926	926	926	926	926	926
Austria-----	255,293	255,293	255,293	255,293	255,293	255,293	255,293	255,293	255,293
Cuba-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Mexico-----	265	265	265	265	265	265	265	265	265
TOTAL-----	41,249,487	13,860,915	447,267	232,226	53,981	131,324	8,081	15,533	2,679

¹⁴ In addition to this there were 2,000,000 pounds of casein, the destination of which is not known.



The three products of the dairy industry which comprised the great bulk of the exports were butter, casein and cheese. Of the butter exported, England took more than half. The United States according to the customs house records of Argentina bought from our sister Republic a total of 5,298,000 pounds of butter and 12,104,000 pounds of cheese. In addition we also bought considerable quantities of casein not shown in the figures. Sweet preserve of milk is made from milk boiled and sweetened. It is something like sweet condensed milk but is brownish in color and is cooked in an open kettle. Chocolate and milk preserve is made with milk, chocolate and sugar.

The following brief summary of Argentina's exports of butter and cheese for the past 10 years gives some idea of the rapid growth of the dairy business during that period.

TABLE 4.- Exports of Butter and Cheese from Argentina 1910 - 1919.
(Compiled from the official publication "Anuario
del Comercio Exterior de la Republica
Argentina")

Years	Butter		Cheese	
	Pounds		Pounds	
1910-----	6,342,634	-----	809	
1911-----	3,076,813	-----	1,142	
1912-----	8,106,314	-----	4,281	
1913-----	8,342,206	-----	16,186	
1914-----	7,675,661	-----	8,216	
1915-----	10,191,152	-----	13,344	
1916-----	12,502,172	-----	502,012	
1917-----	21,671,558	-----	6,015,015	
1918-----	41,821,262	--	14,177,253	
1919-----	44,881,247	--	19,561,969	

These figures show a really remarkable growth in the export trade. From approximately 6,000,000 pounds of butter in 1910 it has increased to more than 40,000,000 pounds in 1920. The exportation of butter is now practically seven times what it was in 1910.

In 1910 only 800 pounds of cheese were exported, a quantity hardly worth mentioning. In 1920 more than 13,000,000 pounds were sold out of the country.

Three classes of people in the United States should be particularly interested in this great growth of the dairy industry in Argentina. They are: First, the American dairy farmer; second, the breeder of purebred dairy cattle; and third, the manufacturers of dairy machinery.

The American dairyman is interested because Argentine dairy products are in open competition with American products in the world's markets. Just what this will mean in the future, and how it will affect the price of these products in the home market, time alone will tell. One thing is certain and that is that the dairy business has come to stay in Argentina and that it is bound to grow

in the future.

This growth of the dairy industry is the phase that is of interest to the breeder of purebred dairy cattle. If the industry continues to grow, as there is every reason to believe it will, cattle of the distinctly dairy breeds will certainly increase in numbers in that country. There are at the present time very few strictly dairy cattle in Argentina as compared with the number of beef cattle. A considerable part of the dairy business is being done with cattle which in the United States would be considered too poor to keep for dairy purposes. As dairy-ing increases there is certain to be an increasing demand for good dairy cattle. If the Argentine dairyman can get what he wants from the States at better terms than anywhere else, then this market will be open to the American breeder of purebred dairy cattle.

Modern dairying demands up-to-date machinery. Here is a good and constantly increasing market for this class of machinery which the American manufacturers have thus far neglected almost entirely. The United States makes the most efficient, practical and up-to-date dairy machinery of any country in the world and there is no good reason why we should not sell it in Argentina.

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